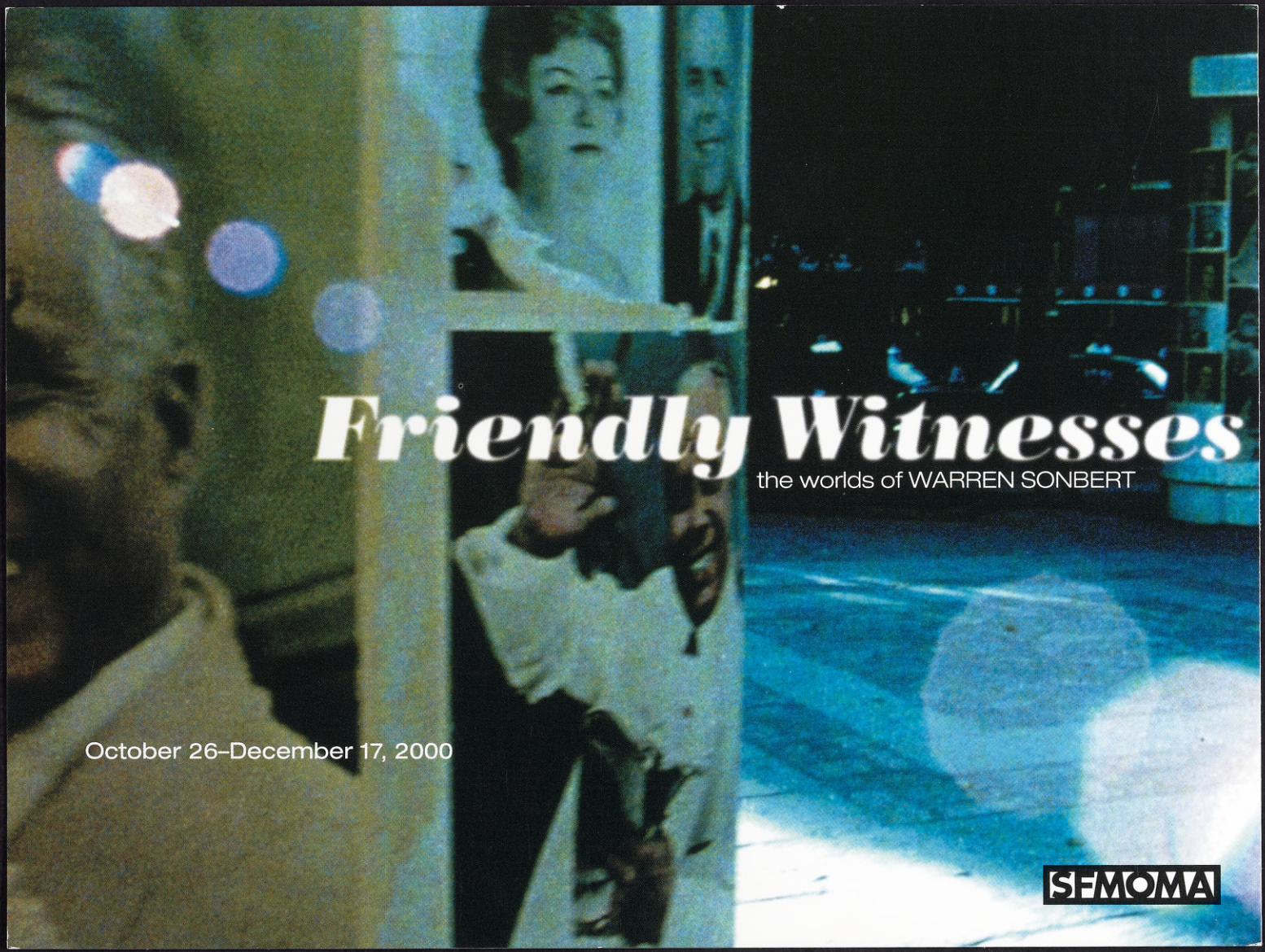

# Friendly Witnesses

the worlds of WARREN SONBERT

October 26–December 17, 2000

SFMOMA

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Film Series
October 26–December 17, 2000

Known for infusing brilliantly edited compositions with equal parts canny observation and personal vision, avant-garde filmmaker Warren Sonbert left the world an eloquent legacy upon his death in 1995. Centered around newly restored and recently rediscovered works, this series explores the full range of Sonbert's oeuvre, placing his films in revealing groupings with each other, as well as with the work of other filmmakers who either influenced Sonbert or were influenced by him—including Malanga, Brakhage, and Hitchcock.

### Transformations of Style: From Mise-en-Scène to Montage

Warren Sonbert, *The Tenth Legion,* 1967, 30 min.
Warren Sonbert, *The Tuxedo Theatre,* 1968, silent, 21 min.
PREMIERE + Thursday, October 26, 7 p.m.
+ Sunday, October 29, 1 p.m.

### Intimate Couplings

Warren Sonbert, *The Bad and the Beautiful,* 1967, 34 min.
Warren Sonbert, *Ted and Jessica,* 1967, 4 min. (fragment)
Warren Sonbert, *Honor and Obey,* 1988, silent, 21 min.
+ Sunday, October 29, 4:30 p.m.
+ Sunday, November 19, 3:30 p.m.

### Early Influences: Andy Warhol and Gerard Malanga

Warren Sonbert, *Where Did Our Love Go,* 1966, 15 min.
Warren Sonbert, *Hall of Mirrors,* 1966, 7 min.
Gerard Malanga, *In Search of the Miraculous,* 1967, 30 min.
Andy Warhol, *Vinyl,* 1965, b/w, 66 min.
+ Sunday, November 5, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, November 12, 3:30 p.m.

### Sonbert's Queer Aesthetic

Warren Sonbert and Wendy Appel, *Amphetamine,* 1966, b/w, 10 min.
Warren Sonbert, *Noblesse Oblige,* 1981, silent, 25 min.
Warren Sonbert, *Whiplash,* 1995/1997, 20 min.
+ Sunday, November 5, 3:30 p.m.
+ Sunday, November 19, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, December 17, 1 p.m.

### Gregory Markopoulos as Mentor, Stan Brakhage as Hero

Warren Sonbert, *Rude Awakening,* 1976, silent, 36 min.
Stan Brakhage, *The Riddle of Lumen,* 1972, silent, 17 min.
Stan Brakhage, *Mothlight,* 1963, silent, 4 min.
Gregory Markopoulos, *Twice a Man,* 1963, 49 min.
+ Sunday, November 12, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, November 26, 3:30 p.m.

### Filmed Images as Found Footage: Stanzas of Music

Warren Sonbert, *Carriage Trade,* 1972, silent, 61 min.
Warren Sonbert, *Short Fuse,* 1992, 37 min.
+ Sunday, November 26, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, December 3, 3:30 p.m.

### Cases in Point: Sonbert's Creative Interaction with Experimental Filmmakers Abigail Child, Nathaniel Dorsky, and Jeff Scher

Warren Sonbert, *Friendly Witness,* 1989, 22 min.
Nathaniel Dorsky, *Hours for Jerome,* Part 2, 1966–82, silent, 25 min.
Jeff Scher, *Reasons to Be Glad,* 1980, 4 min.
Abigail Child, *Mercy,* 1989, 10 min.
Jeff Scher, *Postcards from Warren,* 1999, 1 min.
Jeff Scher, *Warren,* 1991, 3 min.
+ Sunday, December 3, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, December 10, 3:30 p.m.

### Sonbert and Hitchcock: Narrative from a Woman's Point of View

Warren Sonbert, *A Woman's Touch,* 1983, silent, 22 min.
Alfred Hitchcock, *Marnie,* 1964, 35mm, 129 min.
+ Sunday, December 10, 1 p.m.
+ Sunday, December 17, 3:30 p.m.

Film programs are free with Museum admission.
All works are 16mm film, color, and sound unless otherwise noted.

**Call 415/357-4130 or visit www.sfmoma.org for schedule confirmation.**

This presentation of *Friendly Witnesses: The Worlds of Warren Sonbert* was organized by Gartenberg Media Enterprises in conjunction with the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The preservation and exhibition of Sonbert's work was originally organized in cooperation with the Estate Project for Artists with AIDS, the Academy Film Archive, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Image: Warren Sonbert, film still from *Friendly Witness,* 1989; © Ascension Serrano, The Estate of Warren Sonbert

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